



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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2005 Council Accomplishments

In the Operating BUDGET for Fiscal Year 2006, the Council:

- Provided \$86 million in property tax relief, about \$300 to the average County homeowner, which met the Charter Limit and included a four-cent cut in the property tax rate
- Expanded "circuit-breaker" tax credit for homeowners with incomes lower than \$55,000 annually – an average of \$900 per household, three times the current average credit
- Funded public schools at \$1.6 billion – a 7 percent increase
- Expanded full-day kindergarten to 20 additional schools
- Reduced class size guidelines in elementary schools by two students per class
- Reduced over-sized classes in secondary schools
- Added assistant principals in 15 elementary schools
- Increased Montgomery College funding by 10.7 percent
- Expanded Montgomery College's College Institute Program
- Increased "Montgomery Cares" program, which provides health care to the uninsured, by \$3 million
- Expanded programs for rental assistance, in-home aides, and respite care for seniors
- Boosted police spending by \$18 million -- or 11 percent – including monies for gang prevention and enforcement
- Increased staffing to improve response times at three County fire stations
- Approved \$7 million "down payment" on backlog of infrastructure and maintenance needs, including road resurfacing, sidewalks, streetlights, and parks
- Ended the "Carry In, Carry Out" policy and returned trash cans to County parks

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- Added two new “Linkages to Learning” sites
- Approved reductions of \$53 million from County Executive’s proposed budget
- Approved feasibility study on expansion of school health centers

The Council also:

- Banned water and sewer hook-ups for Private Institutional Facilities in RDT zones in order to protect the Agricultural Reserve
- Approved a 12-point action plan to examine development approvals and the development approval process in the wake of the alleged widespread violations in Clarksburg Town Center
- Commissioned and released an Independent Fact-Finding Review of Clarksburg Town Center by the Office of Legislative Oversight
- Appointed Royce Hanson to work with the Council to implement actions to strengthen the development approval process
- Approved height restrictions on the construction of single-family homes to address the issue of “mansionization” and clarified measurement standards
- Approved Local Small Business Reserve Program to reserve 10 percent of County government procurement opportunities for County small businesses
- Approved Clean Energy Reward Program to effectively rebate part of County energy tax to users of clean energy
- Extended protections for developmentally disabled families living in rental housing being converted to condominiums
- Reestablished the Office of Consumer Protection as a separate County agency
- Strengthened the powers of the County Office of Human Rights to deal with discriminatory mortgage lending
- Approved increase in penalties for violations of the Forest Conservation Law
- Supported construction of the InterCounty Connector along the Master Planned route
- Approved Animal Control law revisions that included leashing of dogs in public and microchipping of strays
- Approved a tax credit for businesses for computers purchased for their telecommuting employees
- Approved a resolution to preserve as green space 10 acres of the 19 acre site just north of the Strathmore Arts Center

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- Released report on backlogs in County maintenance and infrastructure
- Approved Olney Master Plan, which included development of affordable housing on County-owned land
- Confirmed three new County WSSC Commissioners
- Approved Master Plan of Bikeways
- Approved process to establish Budget Priorities and Performance Measures each October in advance of the agencies' budget submissions
- Approved Grants Process to make the program more accessible, inclusive, and transparent by establishing an application and review process
- Approved ban on disposing of recyclable material at County garbage facilities by trash haulers
- Appointed Thomas Dagley as new County Inspector General
- Approved new Firefighters contract
- Approved interim Fire & Rescue facility for Clarksburg and \$2.7 million more for new Fire & Rescue apparatus
- Completed a comprehensive review of the County's Board and Commission system and adopted changes to make improvements
- Established a Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
- Gave preliminary approval to the Shady Grove Sector Plan and the Woodmont Triangle Amendment to the Bethesda Sector Plan
- Approved a new Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services and Community Risk Reduction Master Plan

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